

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 XMB-01 EURE-00 SSO-00 /024 W

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O 091205Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8240

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2730

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CASEY), WILLIAM J.

SUBJECT: VISIT TO GREECE OF EXIMBANK PRESIDENT CASEY

DEPT PLEASE PASS EXIM FOR PRESIDENT CASEY FROM
AMBASSADOR KUBISCH

1. CONFIRMING OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH DWIGHT
AMBACH, WE HAVE MOVED AHEAD WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR VISIT
TO ATHENS APRIL 14-16, TO WHICH ALL OF US ARE VERY MUCH
LOOKING FORWARD. ON MONDAY I INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR VISIT AND LEARNING THE PRECISE
DATES YESTERDAY I GOT IN TOUCH WITH HIS OFFICE AGAIN. HIS
ASSISTANT, AMBASSADOR MOLYVIATIS, CALLED ME BACK THIS
MORNING TO SAY THAT YOU WILL BE "VERY WELCOME" IN GREECE
AND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED FORMER ECONOMIC
COORDINATION MINISTER AND NOW PRESIDENT OF THE BANK OF GREECE,
XENOPHON ZOLOTAS, TO BE YOUR HOST WHILE YOU ARE
HERE. I HAVE TOLD THEM YOU PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY MONDAY
EVENING APRIL 14 AND MUST DEPART AROUND MID-DAY WEDNESDAY APRIL
16. ZOLOTAS IS OFFERING AN OFFICIAL LUNCHEON IN YOUR HONOR ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 15. I HAVE ALSO TALKED THIS MORNING TO THE PRESENT
MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COORDINATION, PANAYOTIS PAPALIGOURAS, WHO
IS ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT AND WE HAVE
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED A MEETING WITH PAPALIGOURAS FOR 11 A.M.
TUESDAY MORNING. WE WILL BE WORKING ON THE REMAINDER
OF YOUR SCHEDULE, COORDINATING WITH ZOLOTAS, AND BE IN TOUCH
WITH YOUR OFFICE CONCERNING A PROPOSED PROGRAM. RICHARD
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BENEDICK, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AT THE EMBASSY, WILL SERVE AS

THE CONTROL OFFICER FOR YOUR VISIT.

2. I UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. CASEY MAY BE WITH YOU AND IN ANY CASE MY WIFE AND I CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO STAY WITH US AT THE RESIDENCE WHILE YOU ARE HERE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO ATTEND A DINNER MONDAY EVENING APRIL 14 IN HONOR OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE; HOWEVER, WE CAN MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU THAT EVENING IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR DESIRES. WE WILL ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OFFICE BY TELEPHONE CONCERNING OTHER PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF YOUR VISIT, AS WELL AS THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM.

3. AS FOR PUBLICITY AND PRESS HANDLING OF YOUR VISIT, THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND I HAVE AGREED, SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE, THAT YOUR VISIT WILL BE CHARACTERIZED IN A LOW KEY AS A "WORKING VISIT". WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO HAVE ANY PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING THE VISIT NOR ADVISABLE FOR YOU TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE OR TO BE EXPECTED TO MAKE ANY EXTENSIVE PUBLIC REMARKS WHILE IN ATHENS. NEWS OF YOUR VISIT WILL, OF COURSE, BECOME KNOWN SOON, AND WE PLAN TO SAY--IF ASKED--THAT YOU WILL BE MAKING A SHORT VISIT TO ATHENS WHERE YOU WILL HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH ME AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND CALLING ON GREEK GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS APPROPRIATE. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GOG WANTS TO AVOID ANY SPECIAL POLITICAL CONNOTATION TO YOUR VISIT, BUT IF THIS CHANGES WE SHALL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY WITH OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER.

4. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU HERE AND MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR VISIT. WARM REGARDS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750123-0320
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750469/aaaackyp.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO GREECE OF EXIMBANK PRESIDENT CASEY DEPT PLEASE PASS EXIM FOR PRESIDENT CASEY FROM
TAGS: OVIP, (CASEY, WILLIAM J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006